over the country to meet future demand and supply. Out of this a storage capacity of 0.79 lakh MTs has been realised upto February 2003. Besides, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) have also created storage capacity of about 6 million tonnes under seven years guarantee scheme in the main procuring States.

The following steps have been taken by the Government of India to utilize the foodgrains over and above the buffer norms:

(i) The allocation of foodgrains has been increased from 25 Kgs to 35 Kgs per family per month for the consumers under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(ii) The sale of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) would be continued under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) without quantitative restrictions at the prices to be determined by the High Level Committee of the FCI upto 31.3.2004.

(iii) The export of rice, wheat and wheat products would be continued till 31.3.2004 without quantitative restrictions subject to the condition that the stocks in Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MT rice and 143 lakh MT wheat)

(iv) The foodgrains are being issued under various welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal scheme etc. at BPL rates instead of economic prices.

(v) Wheat and rice being issued @ Rs. 2 & Rs. 3/Kg. respectively to the "poorest of the poor" families under the Anotodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

(vi) Additional allocation of foodgrains have been made on "free of cost" basis under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the special component of the SGRY.

Restructuring of FCI

†2990. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

completely transform the Food Corporation of India with a view to reducing the expenditure of the corporation;

(b) if so, when and where from Government have received the same; and

(c) the details of the suggestions and the extent to which reduction in expenditure is estimated to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Administrative Staff College of India (Hyderabad), in its Report submitted in May 2001, has, *inter-alia*, suggested that the Government and the FCI should consider policy changes and other measures to restructure the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to reduce the expenditure of the corporation.

(c) The major recommendations in the Report with regard to the restructuring of the FCI are that the Government and the FCI should consider the 'unbunding' of the FCI operations, either functionally or spatially. This could be achieved either by dividing FCI operations by handing over procurement to State Governments, distribution to the railways and physical verification and storage to the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). An alternative suggested is to create State level Corporation to carry out all the operations within the State. The Union level FCI would limit its procurement, storage etc. to the maintenance of the buffer stocks. The expected reduction of expenditure, on account of the proposed restructuring, has not been quantified in the Report.

Supply of commodities through Fair Price Shops

2991. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities Government are supplying to the consumers through fair price shops;

(b) whether Government have any plan to enforce the supply of other essential commodities to the consumers at a reduced price through fair price shops;